

A large, stylized, black and white graphic of a letter 'S' or 'Z' shape, resembling a thick, curved line, superimposed over a background of repeating text fragments like 'pagə', 'seim peidʒ', and 'samə pagə'. The graphic is composed of two main curved segments connected by a straight diagonal line, creating a continuous, flowing shape. The background is a light gray with a pattern of the same text fragments repeated in a slightly offset, overlapping manner, giving it a textured, layered appearance. The overall composition is minimalist and modern, with a strong contrast between the black graphic and the light background.

in this issue
[the third one · june 2019]

from the editors

greetings from japan

swimming in russian

the watson project

linguistic awareness

banalysis:

from Allende to Maduro

ipage back!

from the editors

holy shit we did a third issue. this is huge, groundbreaking stuff (for a bunch of procrastinating failed-to-launchers). welcome to same page #3, ~~your~~ *your* favorite applied linguistics anti-journal (by default cuz we're the only game in town).

this project is an amalgamation of the papers we wish we were (and apparently are) writing. it's a physical manifestation of following up on those questions we ask of ourselves and our friends. "hey, wouldn't it be fun to create a poster on the historical polysemy of *ejaculate* instead of...?"

to be sure, same page is a wee bit more than the tongue-in-cheekiness above. this zine is about taking to task the system of knowledge we've been socialized into, about making it work for us while pushing metaphorical envelopes and buttons. we're trying to make ourselves more comfortable by making things less comfortable. with these machinations we seek to interrogate academia itself: its benefits and its shortcomings - how and when it can be useful to "us" collectively and individually.

this time around we're going to take head on a few questions posed directly to us.

- Leah answers those perhaps afraid to ask the tough question of what happens when that first job out of the TESOL program ain't all that.
- Sara explores quite the sticky query regarding the historically effervescent uses of *ejaculate* in the Watson project.
- Andrew concludes the issue by responding to folks searching for that magical unicorn called unbiased news.

& for funsies:

- Crossword puzzle by Andrew, his first go at the medium, so take it easy on him.
- swimming in russian(!), an update from a sorta-almost grad.

for your digital viewing pleasure, copies of the first two issues now available online! click, er, manually type that shit!

https://archive.org/details/samepagezine_1

https://archive.org/details/samepagezine_2

<3, Andrew, Sara, & Leah

greetings from japan

by leah polhemus

Greetings from Japan, where I am currently residing after many months fraught with risk and uncertainty. It hasn't yet been a year since I graduated from the MA TESOL program at Portland State University, but in that time I have already had two different teaching jobs in two different countries. For those of you who, like me, will soon set out for that great big teaching career in the far-off land you have dreamed of and worked hard for, I have a cautionary tale of the international TEFL biz. This is not meant to discourage anyone from going where they want to go. It is simply a reflection of the sometimes harsh reality of the international job market. It seems that there are so many jobs for us, especially in Asia, but they are not all created equal.

I had a job offer in China before I even had my degree in hand. It was with a company called ENREACH Education. They seemed legit, from what I could tell. A branch of Dipont Education, which is a big name in international schools and test prep. I figured I could give it a shot and if it was so bad, it was only for 2 years. I was pretty optimistic about it all. It was a job, how bad could it be?

First of all, be aware of how complicated it is to get the Z visa for China. The Z visa is the only work visa for China, and it expires within 30 days of entering the country. Once you enter, there is another long list of things to do in order to convert your visa over to a resident permit. It took several months and a lot of money upfront. Fingerprints, FBI background checks and my degree both had to be authenticated through a special service, a letter of

recommendation confirming 2 years of teaching experience, a CV with very specific requirements, a medical check with very specific requirements, an application form... it was no small feat to gather all of this. And then, when I was supposed to have my visa in hand, I got a phone call saying that I needed to go down to the consulate in San Francisco to submit my fingerprints. I booked a flight for the weekend, went to San Francisco, got up the next morning and went to the Chinese consulate, submitted my fingerprints (which was also no easy task), and went straight back to the airport to fly back to Portland.

Luckily, my new employer was going to refund all of my costs back to me. I just had to actually get to China and do a bunch of paperwork in order to get that refund. I wondered many times if I would actually get there. Anything could have gone wrong along the way, leaving me out a bunch of money. I also did not get reimbursed for my last minute flight to San Francisco.

I later found out that out of all of the foreign staff, I was the only one who actually came over on the Z visa in the first place. Everyone else got a tourist or business visa and did the well-known "Hong Kong run," which consisted of a company-paid trip to Hong Kong to leave the country and come back in on the Z visa. The company supplied each teacher with all of the necessary paperwork for this, which I had to gather on my own while in the U.S. Turns out this is standard practice for many Chinese companies, as I spoke with teachers from other companies who did the same thing. This is a way to circumvent the increasingly-stringent Chinese regulations and get foreign teachers into the country quickly.

I had a flight booked for Monday August 20, but I couldn't leave until I had my visa in hand, which didn't happen until Friday August 17. So finally, I knew I was moving out of the country 3 days before it actually happened. I *might* have been a little bit stressed out with all of this uncertainty. Finally, the day came for me to leave. I will spare the details of the hell I went through just to get there, but there were multiple flight delays which led to me arriving in Shanghai a day later than I was supposed to... without my luggage. It all straightened out eventually, though.

Finally, I was able to get to Nanjing and start working! I was excited! I was going to be a critical reading and writing instructor for advanced middle and high school students. I knew I would be going into some public schools to teach, and would also be teaching some classes at our main office. As soon as I got to my office, however, I was informed that I had classes starting on Tuesday... "Oral English" classes at a primary school. This wasn't what I thought I would be doing, but okay, I'm trying to get on board here, go with the flow. Except... no one at this company actually teaches English. ENREACH is supposed to provide liberal arts education, offering classes in debate, drama, public speaking, and critical reading and writing. So whatever curriculum we had was only for those subjects, not for oral English. I had only days to come up curriculum for 13 primary classes and 4 middle school classes. I had only taught adults, and had never had any interest in teaching little kids, so this was totally new to me. In addition, I was still living in a hotel and would be spending the next few days searching for an apartment, setting up cell service, and opening up a bank account. I tried to make the best of it, though, go with the flow, handle one thing at a time, tolerate

all that ambiguity. In a few whirlwind days, I found an apartment, signed a contract, shopped for the basics I needed to start living, got my phone and bank set up, and tried to plan for classes beginning. I also had to go tour some of the public schools I would be teaching at with our school's principal, even on Monday which was supposed to be my day off.

Then, on Monday evening, I was told that I needed to teach a public speaking class the following day since our public speaking teachers were on vacation. I did so very hesitantly, because I know nothing about this. Later, I found out that I should've just refused to do this. I was told that management messes up a lot, and they just needed someone to do that to save face, but they couldn't require me to teach other people's classes.

More things happened... basically, this organization is a total shitshow. None of the administrators in my office were actually educators. They were businesspeople. Class decisions were made by the marketing staff who clearly had no grasp on education. I never knew who was going to be in my classes, and marketing people would let students come to different classes where I was teaching a different curriculum if that time was more convenient for them. I would walk into a class every week and there would be a new student there that I hadn't been informed about, making it impossible for me to actually build on skills from week to week. I was commuting 2-3 hours roundtrip, all over the city, to go into various public schools. These schools had absolutely no resources or materials for me, and couldn't even tell me what they wanted me to teach. It quickly became clear that I was simply a token native English speaker that they could take pictures and videos of and claim that they were a foreign language school. No one actually cared

what I did or gave me any support, but if teachers or students complained about anything, I was blamed. My fellow foreign teachers, although they were all wonderful people, were all in their early 20s and had never taught before. They had bachelor's degrees and for many, this was their first "real job." Most of them were drama teachers and debate coaches who were living abroad for the adventure. I was way overqualified and had no colleagues for support or collaboration.

One month into the job, and I was miserable. I felt I had made a huge mistake. Everything that I was told about the job during the hiring process was not the actual reality I experienced while I was there. Plans were shoddy and not well thought-out, they changed from one moment to the next, and I could never get a clear answer from anyone about what was going on. It was total chaos. Apparently things were better in other teaching centers in the country, but the principal in Nanjing entered into many contracts she wasn't supposed to. It was clear that they had no idea how to actually sell what they were offering, so they sold whatever they could. I felt like their foreign puppet, expected to go perform wherever they told me to without any knowledge or respect of my profession.

I spoke with the HR head at headquarters in Shanghai. He was a British guy, and very understanding and also unhappy with the situation in our office. Many people were complaining and he was trying to fix things, but it seemed he didn't have enough power to really make any changes (fire the principal). He tried to get me to stay with the company and just transfer to Shanghai. I thought about it. I had invested a lot of time and money to get there and start setting up my life. I would lose out a lot if I were to leave so quickly. So stay in a

job where I was miserable or leave in hopes of finding something better? It wasn't an easy choice.

There is some tendency to feel like we should "stick things out." When you move abroad, and especially in a place like China, there is always going to be a period of adjustment. In my experience, when people asked me how I was doing in China, I would tell them I was unhappy with my job. The response was always, "Oh, you have culture shock." People gave me all sorts of advice or tips about how to not let the job drive me crazy, but that wasn't a solution to me. I don't need to learn how to tolerate a crappy job. I have worked many terrible jobs in my life, and I didn't work so hard to get a Master's only to wind up in yet another terrible job. This was beyond culture shock for me. This was one that I didn't feel I needed. This one was a professional dead-end for me. I have goals, I have passions, I have expectations, and this job would not help me get there.

It was still a tough decision, however. Should I stick it out? Are these just the normal problems of working in a multicultural environment? Many people told me, "Oh, that's just the Chinese way of doing things." I wondered if that was fair. Was it really just all of China that was like this? It seemed like a cop-out to blame the entire country for some really bad business practices at one company, even if other companies also operated like this. And if that's just how things are there, do I have to like it? Am I allowed to say that I don't like the way of life in a place, so I don't want to live there? Is that culturally insensitive? Was this entire experience just a huge critical incident where I had no clue what the "right thing to do" was?

Many people advised me to just shut up and go through the motions and collect my paycheck. Maybe I am an idealist (actually, I know I am), but that disillusioned me. I was a token native speaker for schools to claim they had foreign language teachers. The schools didn't really want my education, they just wanted to plaster my face on their posters in order to justify charging more money. It was all for show. I could participate in the show. Just play random games with the kids, give arbitrary grades based on no sort of curriculum or assessment, and sit back and enjoy my upper middle class lifestyle in a country where I am making way more than the Chinese teachers employed by the same schools. Should I really be complicit in this cycle of exploitation? There were no clear answers for me. I felt stuck and miserable and no option seemed like the right one.

Finally, I decided to resign, only 2 months after I got there. I knew that the core issues I had with this job would never change, so I would simply cut my losses and move on. As soon as I did it, I knew I had made the right decision. I had to work out a 2-month notice, so I would be leaving right before the new year. I was prepared to go back to the states to keep looking for jobs if I needed to. Luckily, I was offered a teaching position at Tokyo International University only weeks after I resigned. I left China at the end of December, spent the new year in Taipei, went to Europe, went back to the U.S., and even presented a workshop on AR games at TESOL in Atlanta right before I came to Japan.

The process of starting at my new job in Japan was so different. I received constant communication from the university about everything I needed to know. I knew that some former PSU grads worked there too, so I could trust that

I would be working with other serious educators. The visa process was so simple and straightforward, and it didn't even cost me anything. Everything about coming to Japan was different from China. I had a free apartment for my first month. I arrived two weeks before classes started, and had plenty of support for everything from classes and curriculum to residency requirements.

I have now been in Japan for over two months. The difference between how I feel now and how I felt after two months in China cannot be overstated. I am still adjusting to teaching in a new context, and of course there are challenges, but I don't feel battle-weary already. I feel happy to be here, I am enjoying my work, I am enjoying my colleagues, and I am enjoying the quality of life in Japan. I am looking forward to the next two years and thinking I could stay even longer than that.

So what's the lesson in all of this? Well, first, if you see a job posting for ENREACH, I would not recommend that you apply for it. It might not be what was advertised. More importantly, I'm not trying to make this about how China is bad and Japan is better. Did I know people who liked China and had good jobs there? Of course I did. I just wasn't one of them. Do I regret going to China? Not at all. I learned so much from that experience, and I don't think I made any huge mistakes. I guess my point is to not be afraid to just go and do your best, but also remember your worth and don't be afraid to get out of a situation if it isn't working for you.

swimming in russian

by andrew utz

At the start of my second – and what was supposed to have been final – year of graduate school, I found myself standing in a hollow crater where my life once stood. A few weeks earlier my then-partner had informed me that our marriage was at its end. This came as quite the shock to me, and I would find out later, midway through the school term and the divorce, about her infidelity with a (now-former) very dear friend of mine. I managed to float my way through the rest of the academic year, atop countless beers washed in tears, until at long last my final classes ended in June. With my work as a TA done and dusted and only my thesis left to write in order to culminate the degree, I ran as fast and as far away from Portland as I could. (One of these days I'll get that paper looming over me written, I swear.)

The summer was spent bouncing from country to country on an aimless tour of some of the lesser-traveled European nations. Somewhere along the way – on a scorching July day in Zagreb, Croatia to be precise – I stumbled back into my previous good habit of swimming laps as mental therapy. Due to a confluence of sweltering heat and a lack of my passport (having submitted it to the Russian consulate with a visa application), I started looking up public swimming pools to take a cool dip and get some much needed exercise. After my first dip here I had found a new mission: figuring out how to swim laps in public

pools in each place I visited for the remainder of my trek, which terminated in Beijing in December.

Counting the U.S. and natural bodies of water, I swam in 13 cities spread across 14 countries over the course of that calendar year. Of those places, I managed to swim laps in the pools of 11 different cities scattered among the northern hemisphere. What follows is the story of trying and succeeding to enjoy a local pool in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Tiny pieces of paper play a not insignificant part of every exchange in the former USSR. In seemingly every establishment, one or more signs inform patrons that payment will be returned to the customer if a physical proof of purchase isn't provided. Need to buy stamps or visit a bank? Take a ticket, then take a seat. Your number will be called in a rather orderly albeit opaque and non-sequential fashion, and receipts for the transaction will follow. Hell, even a trip to a public toilet puts nature's call into the written form. Each interaction is laden with its own paper trail documenting some bureaucratic idiosyncrasy.

I had read somewhere that swimming laps in Russia might also be a tad complicated if not outright difficult due to language, cultural and physical (as in medical) barriers. As one who loves both counting off kick-turns and figuring out foreign-to-me

bureaucracy (post offices, ticket purchases, etc) in-person as opposed to online, I needed to see whether these tales were perhaps no more than Westerners' expectations of having the world at their beck and call, or that they might paint an accurate picture that approaches the truth. Let's say it's a little from column A and a lot from column B. And sure enough, it turned out that getting wet in a public pool came with its own stacks of little squares of paper.

I arrived in St. Petersburg on a Saturday morning prepped with a list of a few possible Olympic-sized pools that I'd looked up en route. Since I was to be in this city a mere three days before a long haul of seven nights on a train to Beijing, wasting an entire day trying to find a suitable place to swim was unappealing. I wanted to splash about in a pool at least two if not all three of the days here, so I got right down to business after putting my backpack on my bunk. To cut down on search time, I enlisted the two young women at the front desk of the hostel for some assistance with my list.

After taking in their blank stares at my odd request, on to Google maps we three ventured, with me more in tow behind my willing translators. After a few short minutes, my initial possibilities were all three nixed. It turns out that the nicest pools in this fair city are often associated with private schools and either aren't open to the public or they disallow foreigners. I'll buck the current trend of Putin demonizing and lay this one at the feet of Yeltsin instead. Regardless, after just another 10

minutes of internet Magellan-ing, the pair of young ladies had located two places for public use. They listed a couple of details for each: one is nearer, the other is more expensive, one doesn't seem to have a lot of information available, the other is inside some sort of larger exercise facility.

Then from one of the receptionists came the two questions I had been waiting for. "Do you have a swimming cap? It looks like both pools require this." Sure do, other places I've been to require this. No surprise there. "Do you have a doctor's note?" the query delivered with a sideways look. Again, it's required for both. No, that I don't have. I asked if either of the websites stated whether a physician is available at the facility, something that I had read might be the case but no guarantees even if the internet says so. "No, they don't say. Sorry, but we've never looked up this kind of thing before." Thanks for all your help, it's time to try my luck.

I went for the more expensive of my two options even though it was a little further away. I hoped, without any shred of evidence to do so, that the higher cost meant a physician was paid to be on staff, leaving aside the fact that today was a Saturday and who the hell knows what sorts of schedules pool doctors keep in Russia or anywhere for that matter. It turned out that the place wasn't all that far away. Bonus, it wasn't terribly difficult to locate either, despite it being behind another building on a busy road in a not-quite-industrial, not commercial either, and certainly not residential area. Structures

that house indoor pools are pretty easy to spot anyway, so long as their windows display the regular aquatic paraphernalia, and this one is no exception.

Inside the entrance to *Ds Volna* is a large lobby tiled in white with blue accents. Rows of metallic benches like one encounters in eastern European post offices or Chinese banks line most of this main hall, where plenty of adults and children are seated waiting, though for whom or for what isn't immediately obvious. Directly across from the entrance are two windows with receptionists seated behind, and just to the right is a stand-up desk for what I would soon find out is some form of managing administrator-cum-concierge.

A mere moment's hesitation whilst trying to get my bearings brings an attractive woman from around her stand-up desk to ask me something in Russian. She speaks a little English I soon find out, enough for her to understand without me having to windmill in place that I would like to make use of their pool. It takes a little longer to get across that I brought my gear with me prepared to swim today, now if possible. We exchange first names and Valarie points to a dispenser holding shoe covers of the type one must wear in clean manufacturing environments. I tell her that I have my inside-only sandals with me, but this falls on deaf ears. I don the elastic-enhanced plastic baggies.

She motions for me to follow her through the lobby and up two flights of stairs we go, working through conversation along the

way. For the second time today I confirm that I have a swimming cap, though this time the confirmation involves pointing at my head. At the top and across the way, we come up to a balcony that overlooks the pool. She asks in Russian if the pool will meet my needs, at least, I'm fairly certain this is what she asked. Of course, I tell her. It's 25 m and nothing that I can see appears to be living in it. I had surmised upon arrival that this isn't an Olympic pool based on the size of the building, so the short length of the pool is no surprise. No matter to me, take the number of laps and multiply by two to swim the desired distance, simple enough.

Back down to the first floor we go and over to ticket window number one. By the time we get there Valarie has pulled out her mobile and begun typing into a translator app. I read her first question, "how long to swim?" I tell her one hour – I actually say "one hour" as well as "60 minutes" with a pause between, hoping this covers me. Without using her digital translator she mentions something about 30 minutes, but the rest of her comment is in Russian. I nod and we move past it. The translator then displays that it costs 600 rubles for 30 minutes of pool time. I ask how much it is for the entire hour that I'd prefer to swim, and am told 1200 rubles. I should've seen that one coming. She then stiltedly says that after 13:30 on Monday the price for a half hour drops to 300. Getting better, that roughly equates to \$8.70/hour, but it still ain't cheap compared to some spots I've swum. (Croatia is a whopping

buck-fifty for unlimited access to an Olympic pool on any given day.)

And then comes the question from the translator I had hoped would be skipped, "you have doctors note?" For my response, I pull out my mobile and start typing, hoping that Google doesn't screw me on translation, "здесь врач?" She smiles and nods. It will be another 200 rubles to see the on-site physician and get a note. Super, sign me up for one hour of pool use and the cheapest visit with a medical professional I've ever encountered. Valarie explains all of what we had discussed to the receptionist, who has been ignoring us since we walked up to her window. She prints out three separate receipts, two for 600 rubles each and one for 200 rubles. It's not the least expensive set of laps I've done, but not the most either. Valarie says something else about 30 minutes but again it's in Russian without her helpful translator. Another smile and another nod, I'm ready to see the doc and get wet.

Valarie directs me to remove my shoes and put on my flip flops. We then go to an intermediary ticket desk that I hadn't noticed earlier on our way back to the stairs. Here I'm told to hand my receipts to the ticket taker, who in turn scans each receipt separately and hands them back with a curious yet friendly smile. Again the gracious concierge escorts me upstairs, this time up just the one flight to pool level.

She digitally translates that I am now to see the doctor, but before that she gives me step-by-step instructions by pointing. There is the doctor's office, this is where you check-in before swimming, behind the counter and to the left is the locker room for changing, through there are the showers, and keep going to get to the pool. Or this is what I take her meanings to be, each station of the swim accompanied with more Russian than I can handle.

My meek knock on the doc's closed office door is returned with *dobry dey*, which I take to mean entrance has been granted. The physician is a middle-aged woman with reddish hair wearing a white track suit over a red t-shirt. I asked whether she speaks any English and received back a *nyet*. This is going to be fun, I mutter to myself, though in good humor – I knew going in that this was a likely scenario. She asks me the first question, which I assume, wrongly as it turns out, that she wants to know my age. Thirty-five, I say in English. Her question is repeated now with a finger pointed at my chest and her pen tapping a small piece of paper with a longer line on it than two digits could ever fill. Alright, let's try name my name as a second guess. She writes down something on her tiny sheet, about half the size of an index card. Getting back to age, she says in English, "three and five?" Yes, I'm 35. She laughs and says something in her first language about how I don't look quite that old (not that 35 is old, mind you). Of course, for all I know she could be poking fun at me for having mutilated my earlobes and now I'm stuck looking like this. Either way I

laugh alongside her, and besides, it does look rather ridiculous on a white person.

Following a longer pause in our already broken conversation I assume that the interview is finished. Instead, the doc is down for couple rounds of Silent Simon Says. First she spreads her fingers out, then grabs my hands and pushes my fingers wide while she looks at the webbing and palms of my hands. Simon lifts her shirt exposing her stomach, and I ape the action revealing more tattoos, which elicits another grin and was that a headshake? I smile and shake along, even though I'm certain the success of our game doesn't hinge on these last two. Out comes Simon's seal of approval, a triangular blue stamp that she uses to mark my tiny aquatic medical record. In good Russian fashion, the doc hands me the receipt clearing me for pool use, free of any visible skin diseases. I exit her office offering a *spasibo. Prosim.*

A white-haired *babushka* womans the next station, where I hand her the now four collected receipts for another round of scanning. She places my papers in a small wooden cubby numbered 68 and I receive two rubber wristbands, one of which is attached to a key, which in turn is inserted into a lock. A quick change and as I pass the check-in desk to head for the showers, the older lady shows me her watch and motions that I am to be out of the pool at five-before 14:00. Wait, it's 13:30 right now, and I paid for 60 minutes not 25. I shake my head and make a circle with my hands intending to indicate a full

turn of an hour. I also become aware that I'm standing in this populated lobby-ish area in nothing but a glorified banana-hammock and flip-flops. Maybe I'll ease back on the gesticulations for the time being.

Babushka-turned-timekeeper finds a piece of scrap paper, writes down 13:55, and offers more Russian. Ok, I caught a loan word somewhere there that sounded like 'sauna.' Consciously keeping my hands to my sides, I shake my head, no, I don't really care for sweating in saunas and prefer to use my entire hour in the pool. Exasperated now, she points to 13:55 on her scrap paper with one of my two 600 ruble receipts, then to the other 600 ruble receipt and repeats the loan word. Well shit, if time is ticking away and I'm really getting booted from the water when they say, we can work this out later. I nod and head for the showers.

When I walk to the pool all six lanes are occupied. No worries, this isn't an issue in any place I've ever had the pleasure of splashing back and forth in. Sharing is caring, and one would think possibly more so in the land of Lenin. I place my towel on a bench, kick off my flip flops, and walk to the end of the pool where an attendant is seated, looking at me strangely. This has become a regular look here and elsewhere in the city, so I don't think much of it. She stands and says something, in Russian of course, and I answer with "share?" and point to the lane in front of her, occupied by an older gentlemen slowly breast-stroking toward the other end. She shrugs and firmly

says "55" in English. Okie doke, I'm going to make sure my ass is out of this pool at five-til, but still, what the hell is going on? How did she know when I checked in? Did the timekeeper come out here and tell her while I was in the shower?

Twenty minutes and 39 kickturns later, which take a few laps to get used to here, one end of the pool being only 0.9 m deep, I hop out and give a nod to the lifeguard now smiling at me. After my shower and on my way to the second clothing change, *Babushka* again points to the sauna, to which I can only shake my head. I change and go to see her again, this time in reverse, exchanging lock for papers. No longer nearly naked, I come with my mobile at the ready, having typed into my app "I would like to ask if I can use this receipt tomorrow." The rough translation doing its magic, she lifts a phone receiver and dials someone who doesn't pick up. More Russian and a palms-up gesture. We exchange confused and possibly frustrated looks. She tries the extension again with the same result. She walks around the desk and takes my arm. Suddenly I have a new escort, now heading down stairs instead of up.

I'm told to sit and wait on a bench, but not one that's in the rows of its brethren, appropriately separating me from the likely regular patrons of this establishment, while my escort disappears into an office. A few minutes later Valarie emerges and takes a seat next to me on the metal bench. She types quickly into her translator and the first questions to pop out on the other end are "Did you enjoy swim? Did you like pool?"

Oh my, yes very much, I dumbly nod and smile. "Did you understand that I said 30 minutes today, 30 minutes tomorrow?" For this response, I deem it worthy of digital assistance. "No, I did not understand that before, but now I do. I paid for 30 minutes today, and another 30 minutes for tomorrow. What time tomorrow can I swim?" In English she says "Tomorrow any time, but 25 and 55." Wait, what? And then a few details begin to come into focus. On weekends they allow only 30-minute sessions that begin at minutes 25 and 55 after the hour. The group of teenagers waiting at the edge of the pool as I exited the water makes more sense now. Oh, and lane sharing probably isn't a thing here, hence the frustrated looks I got from the lifeguard and the breaststroker. I offer another *spasibo* and we say our goodbyes.

Day two goes off without a hitch. I come back around the same time of day, even making sure that my half hour starts on a 25 just in case there's something different about that 55. There's a different locker lady handing out wristbands and locks, but the exchange goes as smoothly as I'd hoped. The lifeguard is the same as yesterday, and she full on laughs, likely at me, when I head for the pool from the showers. She immediately assigns me my own lane since I'm the first one out there as the second hand started my session on the dot. With the extra 10 minutes I'm able to add another 500 meters onto yesterday's distance.

With seven days of travel by train on the immediate horizon, I am eager to get a last-for-a-while workout in before my next

bite-off-more-than-I-can-chew adventure. So for the third day I take the wonderful St. Petersburg metro back to the pool on Monday in the early afternoon, again timing my arrival to jump in at 25 after the hour on the dot. I purchase my ticket at window #1 and proceed to the first check-in station at the other end of the benchful lobby. The receptionist takes my receipt, scans it, and frowns after the womp-womp produced by her computer. She says something in Russian and hands my receipt back to me. Bewildered, I venture whether she speaks any English. She doesn't, but luckily a nearby employee overhears our conversation and comes over with her mobile to assist our exchange. After getting the information from her co-worker, she punches in the Cyrillic and out pops "can only proceed after 14:30." Well shit, weekdays are different than weekends in more ways than one. Not a problem, I can and do wait another nine minutes before I head back upstairs for my final exercise ahead of my train-induced hiatus.

It turns out that aquatic exercise in Russia might be a bit more difficult than it is in other countries. What struck me most, though, is the lengths to which people are willing to go in order to help a bumbling but curious foreigner reach his admittedly abnormal goal. In some of the swimming facilities I've visited, the language barrier isn't attempted to be climbed at all, every attempt at communication met with a blank stare or a dismissive wave of a hand, which is completely fair but a strong constitution and will to swim are required. And still others where simply navigating the physical space on one's

own can be daunting, the shower areas seemingly designed with Kafka's sense of frustration (appropriately, I got lost in a locker room in Prague, all of the signage pointing toward the pools were, oddly, placed poolside).

I'm told I need to come up with a conclusion here, some sort of resolution that neatly ties this all together, maybe provides some lesson learned that you, dear reader, perhaps can use in the future. Truth be told, though, I got nothing in this department. I had a weird cultural and linguistic experience swimming in Russia, and if you happen to find yourself in the same place looking for laps, maybe this little anecdote offers a little insight. Oh, maybe leave the Western expectations behind, and take a digital translator.

the watson project

Using a Historical Corpus to Analyze Diachronic Polysemy

Sara Mulliner, School of Pedantic Double Entendres, Sotos Peak University

Background

On a lovely spring day towards the end of 18th grade (my 20th year of formal education!), I learned a new word-- or rather, a new definition for a lexeme to which I had already been exposed.

A peer showed me a clip from the comedic gameshow QI, in which the panelists discuss the usage of a particular verb by Dr. Watson from the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (a truly seminal body of work). The title of that YouTube video, you ask?: "Quite interesting Dr Watson **Ejaculated** Twice as Often as Sherlock Holmes QI" (emphasis mine).¹

Of course, *ejaculate* was once popular as a synonym for *exclaim* (from the Latin root *ejaculari*; a clear example of how this romance language has rubbed off on English). My classmate joked how our access to a historical corpus could help us learn more about the ways in which *ejaculate* - the verb and its sticky nominalization - has changed across time, and when the transition to our contemporary understanding of the word began. Just how long has *ejaculate* given us those, ahem, charged chuckles?

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5QVo6Rio-Q>.

Shoutouts: ^ the youtube link above. • Davies, M. (2010-) The Corpus of Historical American English (COHA): 400 million words, 1810-2009. Available online at <https://corpus.byu.edu/coha/>. • Image retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sherlock_Holmes_%26_Watson_-_The_Adventure_of_the_Empty_House_-_Sidney_Paget.jpg. • Rowling, J. K. (2013). Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Vol. 5). London: Bloomsbury Publishing. • Quora post titled, "When did writers stop using the word 'ejaculated' as a term for exclaimed?" for the HP quote. (srynoroom4link) • Special thanks to WO for most of the jokes.



"SHERLOCK HOLMES WAS STANDING SMILING AT ME ACROSS MY STUDY TABLE."

Methods

- Searched the **Corpus of Historical American English (COHA)** for *ejaculat** (any part of speech).
- Hoped to count off by some number that resulted in a manageable subset, but I couldn't figure out how to make the website do what I wanted quickly.
- Eyeballed the results by decade instead. (I've heard-tell that with research, you can't force it, you have to let it come naturally.)

Results

Between 1815 and 2009, there were 2,824 instances of some form of *ejaculate*. The highest rate of ejaculations occurred in 1921 (60 total).

A biology textbook in 1907 is the first use attested (in this corpus) of *ejaculate* with the current connotations. There is not a clear usage in this sense found again until the 1940's: 1 in fiction, 1 in a magazine, and 3 in non-fiction texts (9% of total tokens). The 1960's is the first decade in which the majority of examples refer to the physiological process. This trend continues to the present.

After repeated uses with this alternate meaning, a new semantic concept was erected. I struggle to bring the argument to completion, however, without noting two things. First, perhaps unsurprisingly, the overall rates of appearance of this word have decreased across time. Second, modern examples of the dated usage still exist: "*We're not going to use magic?*" Ron [Weasley] *ejaculated loudly*. These are mostly found in fiction, perhaps to hearken back to settings & sentiments found in 18th- and 19th-century lit in which it was common for characters to ejaculate.

As I hope this study demonstrates, corpus linguistics can stimulate the mind for finding just the right dick jokes.

Funniest Examples from the Corpus

1819: "A sample of the great -- sea serpent's skin." -- (Seizing it, ejaculates.)

"Snakeology! thou fascinating art..."

[*The Sea Serpent*, William A. Crafts]

1827: I heard deep drawn sighs, and occasionally a half expressed and mournful ejaculation.

[*The Novels . . .*, Charles Brockden Brown]

1844: The religions of the world are the ejaculations of a few imaginative men.

[*Essays — Second Series*, Ralph Waldo Emerson]

1847: The boys will not hoot after you; the ladies will not ejaculate as you pass by.

[*The Lampoon*, Epes Sargent]

1847: Turning her back upon us, she ejaculated into the air two shining horse-shoes, both the shape of the letter O...

[*Around The Tea-Table*, T. De Witt Talmage]

1855: Wilhelmina came home to mingle her tears and ejaculations with those of the old lady; but there was very little of self-reliance in either to cheer the house, or to give comfort to the desolate old man...

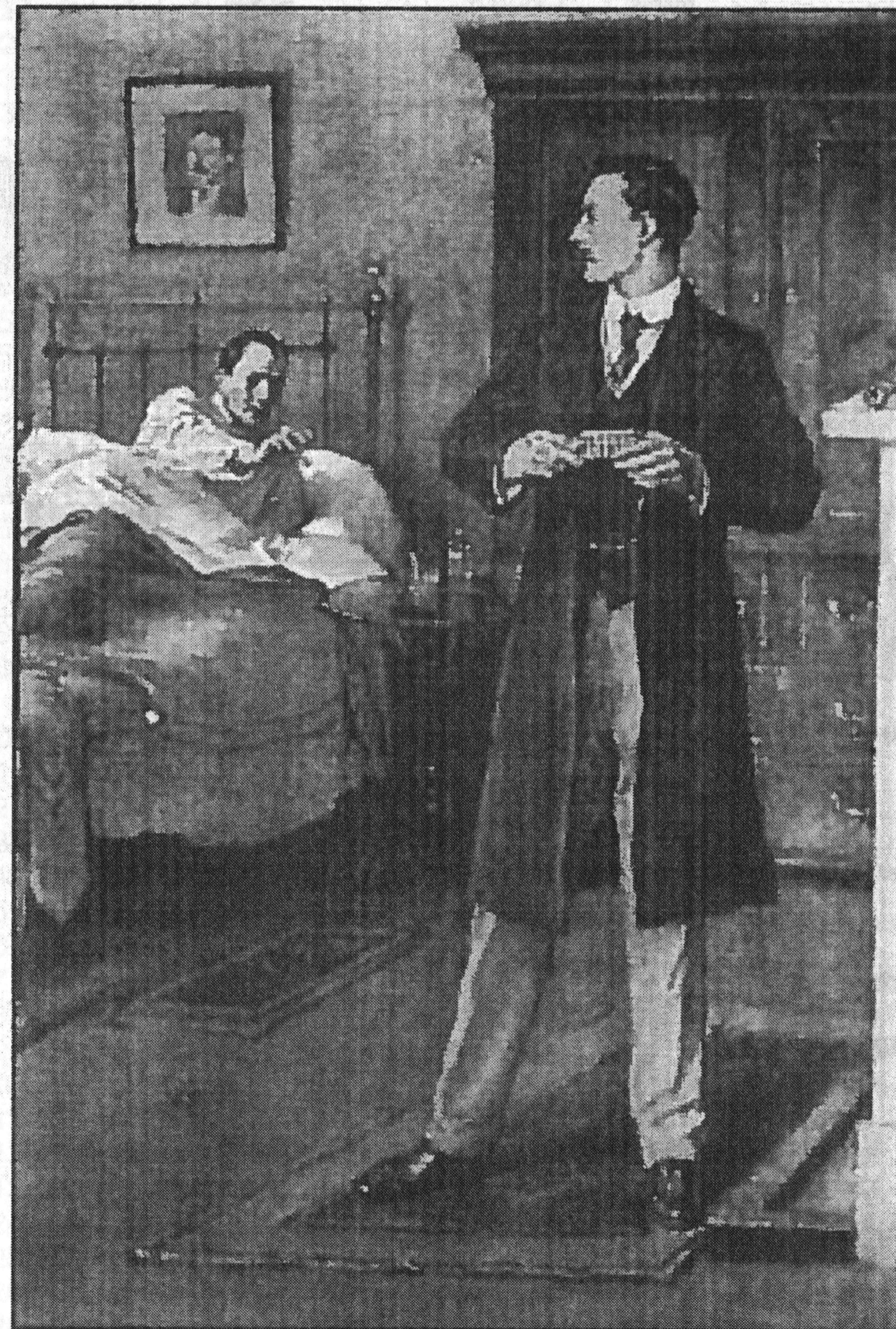
[*Fudge doings: Being Tony Fudge's Record of the Same. In Forty Chapters*, Donald Grant Mitchell]

1868: For a few moments after their first ejaculations neither Tom nor Ned knew what to do.

[*After a Shadow and Other Stories*, Timothy Shay]

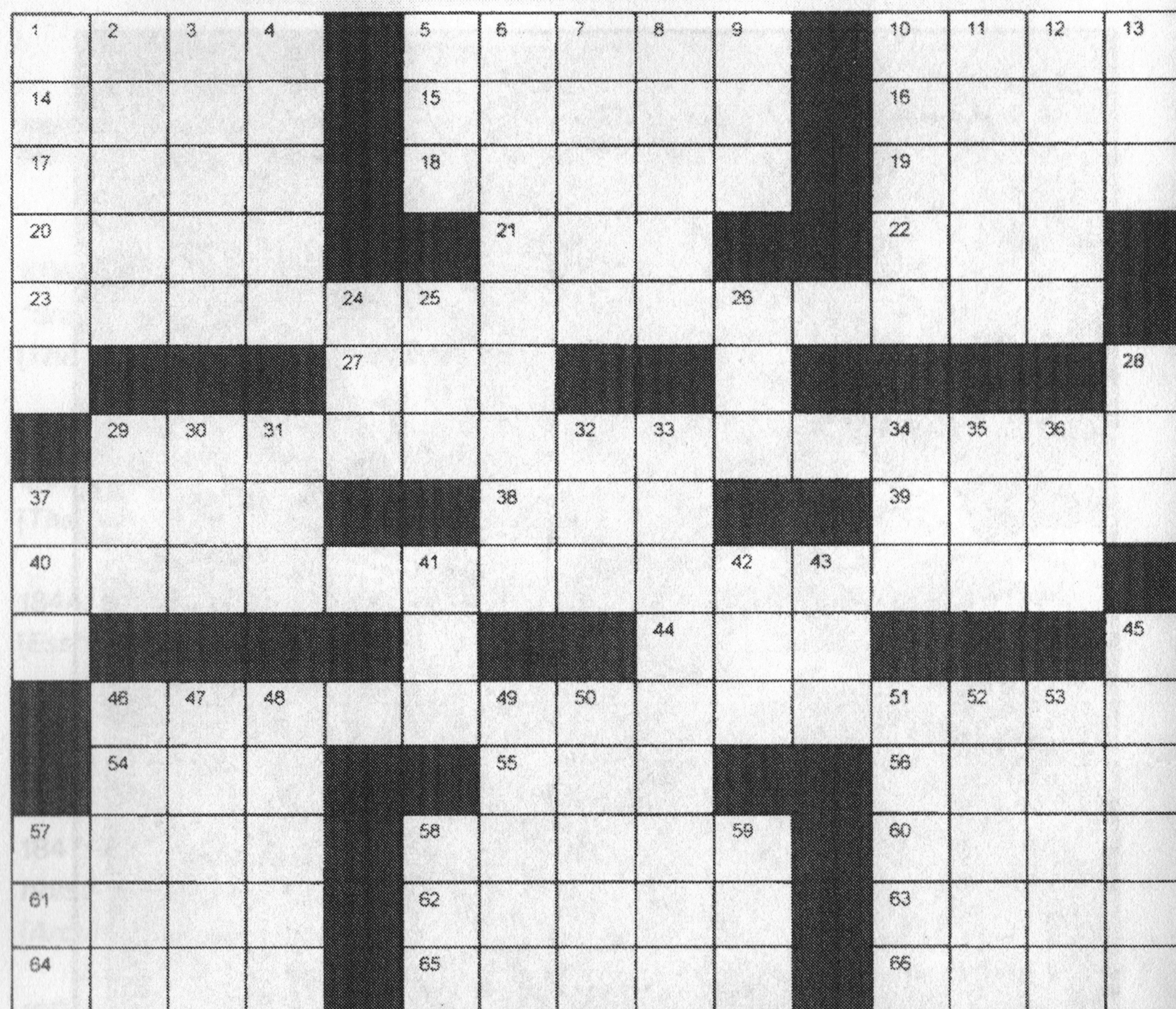
1883: He took no notice of my ejaculation; he simply continued to look at me.

[*The Pension Beaurepas*, Henry James]



Retrieved from https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dr._Watson.jpg

linguistic awareness



by andrew utz

Across

1. Contextual-linguistic no-no
5. Coast in Peru
10. Half of a 90s rap duo
14. Abbreviation for a U.S. business?
15. Islamic permissible
16. Maori challenge
17. Alternative syntax theory?
18. Rub out
19. Up n' _____
20. Dynamic opening?
21. Brief psychedelic?
22. Brand with a Soul

23. "When did you quit?" for example
27. Legalese for no-cost bail
29. With modality, what could have been
37. Tart
38. Take to court
39. Send out
40. With analysis, a formal look at the informal
44. Commercials, e.g.
46. p t and others
54. Resistance unit
55. Similar to
56. Aid partner
57. Anarchist abbreviation
58. Empathetic distance
60. Grandma, often
61. Stallion's mate
62. Father again?
63. Bus. sch. exam
64. Dressed (in)
65. Second Corleone son
66. Harvard rival

Down

1. Type of starter
2. Reddish brown
3. Oft beginning to quotes?
4. Big name for Democrats
5. Revolutionary first
6. Burden?
7. Texas battle site
8. Endures
9. Pub order
10. Business casual color
11. \$3 for 2, for one
12. Of a certain Swedish nature?
13. Parent of an infamous serial killer?
24. Covered vase
25. Mary Jane
26. Bobby Sands' grp.
28. Deli counter short order?
29. Baby talk
30. Ukrainian fascist grp.
31. Make a bend with C and E?
32. Street in Madrid
33. Greek fare
34. Short of a dozen
35. Poison Ivy player Thurman
36. Be unwell
37. Elementary subj.
41. Regret
42. Psychic halves
43. Nazi-rescuing WWII grp.
45. Digital nation?
46. Outspoken
47. Tara plantation name
48. Insert a clip
49. Less cool than
50. Suppress speech?
51. Tart
52. Deporter-in-Chief
53. Punitive
57. Walking Dead network
58. Fido's word
59. Tokyo, formerly

analysis: from Allende to Maduro

We would like to discuss... the importance and seriousness of this apparently innocent act, which consists in choosing the newspaper you subscribe to. It is a choice full of snares and dangers which must be made consciously, applying criteria and after mature reflection.

Above all, the worker must resolutely reject any solidarity with a bourgeois newspaper. And they must always, always, always remember that the bourgeois newspaper (whatever its hue) is an instrument of struggle motivated by ideas and interests that are contrary to theirs. Everything that is published is influenced by one idea: that of serving the dominant class, and which is ineluctably translated into a fact: that of combating the laboring class. And in fact, from the first to the last line the bourgeois newspaper smells of and reveals this preoccupation.

--A. Gramsci, "Newspapers and the Workers" (1916)

Several friends have asked me where they can find reliable or unbiased news, usually on the heels of another one of my rants against capitalist media writ large. The short answer is, of course, that it can't be done. No piece of news, regardless of where and when it's published, can possibly be objective. The longer answer starts with understanding *why* this is a fool's errand. Gramsci knew this more than a century ago when he warned workers to be judicious in their choice of newspaper purchases. He urged the working class to think twice before giving their few pennies over to the owners of bourgeois presses. Gramsci did not, however, instruct the proletariat to completely abstain from reading those newspapers. Instead, the pamphlet quoted above reminds its readers to recognize the interests being served by journalism paid for by the ruling class. Those interests do not align with ours, and we -- the proletariat, including professional intellectuals forced to "publish or perish" -- must never, never, never forget that.

by andrew utz

The present study(ish) aims to provide yet more evidence that "the bourgeois newspaper...is an instrument of struggle" against those of us who must sell our labor in order to survive. For the analysis we'll look at the *NYT*'s coverage of Chile leading up to the U.S.-supported (-led?) overthrow of President Salvador Allende. And we will compare those news items with what the *NYT* has chosen to publish regarding Venezuela currently, yet another ongoing attempt at subverting and crushing a sovereign state which just so happens to resist the imperial interests of the U.S. There are some obvious parallels between the two nations and the events that have taken place in each despite four decades separating them. Naturally, then, I became curious as to whether there is any overlap in how Chile and Venezuela were/are portrayed in the news. It is this question that I will address here.

First I will provide a very brief background of events that took place in Chile 1970-73, as well as discuss the similarities that I see with present-day Venezuela. Then I will describe the data collection and how the corpora were built. Finally I will present the data and initial findings. And because I'm up against a deadline that I've ignored until now, some of this piece will take outline form.

Background on Chile

In October 1970, Salvador Allende, a Marxist, was freely elected to the presidency of Chile. By the end of September 1973, the Chilean president would be dead. Dr. Allende apparently committed suicide in the presidential palace during a military coup d'état. The coup was supported if not outright orchestrated by the United States. The military junta that brutally ruled Chile for the next two decades was also immensely supported by the U.S.

In the few years of his presidency, Dr. Allende led a governing coalition that had the support of the majority of Chile's population. Dr. Allende, the governing coalition, and the supporting population fought hard to build socialism in their country. The U.S., however, would not sit idly by and allow such a society to be constructed.

The U.S. government was extensively and continuously involved in Chilean affairs in the decade from 1963 through 1973. The involvement was both overt ways, such as cutting off aid packages, and it was covert, through clandestine operations run by the C.I.A. or other backchannels. The government admitted to spending more than three million dollars (\$17.3 million in today's dollars) just to *influence the outcome of the 1970 election*. That is, this huge amount of money was used to prevent Dr. Allende from becoming president in the first place. (I swear there's some sort of hypocrisy here, but I can't quite put my finger on where it might be. Somebody help me.) Another eight million dollars (\$46 million today) from 1970-73 went toward actions that subverted the sovereign nation of Chile. Here are some of the ways this money was spent: spreading propaganda through Chilean-owned newspapers¹; "large-scale support for Chilean political parties" that worked against the governing coalition; direct attempts at fomenting a coup, including orchestrating an electrical blackout; manipulating the international copper market, copper being Chile's largest export; financial and other material support to striking truck owners. This is an incomplete list pulled directly from the introduction to the infamous Church Committee report². This is what the government was willing to *admit*. If you think that all of what is contained in this report is the entire scope of U.S. "involvement" in Chile, then we should play some three-card Monte. I'll deal.

Bourgeois newspapers played their part in all of this. Before, during and following Dr. Allende's short tenure as the head of state, hundreds if not thousands of articles were published in highly regarded capitalist rags that painted both Dr. Allende and the Chilean nation in a negative light. The

¹ The C.I.A. literally took over the largest newspaper in Chile, *El Mercurio*. The appropriated newspaper was often cited as a reliable source in the *NYT*. See Fred Landis' *CIA psychological warfare operations in Chile, Nicaragua and Jamaica* (1982) for further details. Landis, a Chilean citizen, wrote his PhD dissertation on "changes in the mass media during the Allende period" with specific focus on *El Mercurio*.

² Just google it. It's there for all to read, has been for decades. As an aside, I am reminded rather often by my friends that not everyone reads the histories of Western imperialism as closely as I do, and I don't think I read it closely enough! So, thank you, dear friends. Please keep reminding me.

stories constructed a Chile deep in the throes of many crises. Those news items weren't necessarily incorrect, per se — Chile was in fact experiencing crises. However, the stories all failed to provide a complete picture for their readers. Given what I've read, in all probability in no bourgeois-published article was it explained that *why* Chile was going through an economic crisis was in large part due to U.S. meddling in Chilean affairs. While events and facts such as the economic-crippling truck strikes, Chile's heavy reliance upon copper exports for economic solvency, and the U.S.-involved I.T.T. scandal³ were covered extensively, readers were rarely if ever (I hate making this hedge here) provided with what should be considered necessary background in order to make informed opinions on the situation.

Venezuela parallels

In December 1998, Hugo Chavez, a Marxist, was elected to the presidency of Venezuela. He was elected a second time in 2000, following a newly-adopted constitution in 1999. His administration survived a failed coup d'état in 2002, which was tied to officials in the U.S. government at the time, as well as to the C.I.A. Following Chavez' death in 2013, Nicolas Maduro was elected to the presidency of Venezuela, after serving in as the country's vice president under Chavez. He was again elected to the country's highest office in May 2018, garnering more than 65% of the popular vote. Each of these elections, by the way, were monitored and deemed democratic by external bodies, and in 2012 former U.S. president Jimmy Carter stated that "the election process in Venezuela is the best in the world⁴." Maduro has withstood thus far an ongoing attempt led by the U.S. to oust him from his elected office.

No such official document like the Church Committee report exists (to date) on present events in Venezuela. However, documentation of this type simply is not necessary to establish U.S. involvement in Venezuela, given the statements being made openly by the likes of President Donald Trump, Vice

³ Oh yea, U.S. business interests were heavily involved in some of the backchannel machinations against Chilean sovereignty. Just google "I.T.T. Chile coup" for more details on this one of many example.

⁴ <https://venezuelanalysis.com/news/7272>

President Mike Pence, National Security Advisor John Bolton and Florida Senator Marco Rubio, to name but a few of the officials loudly calling for the overthrow of Venezuela's elected government⁵. This is what I would file under "meddling." Alongside these statements are overt actions such as the leveling of economic sanctions against the Venezuelan state, some of its companies and more than a few of its government officials. Of course, some might claim that openly calling for the ouster of the current President of Venezuela is not sufficient evidence of U.S. covert "involvement" in the affairs of a sovereign nation. It is far too tedious to continue to respond in good faith to those making this likely bad faith claim, so I say to them: your credulity is both childish and dangerous.

Like Chile, Venezuela relies heavily on exporting one natural resource for economic stability, only here it is oil instead of copper. Also as in Chile, a number of U.S.-owned businesses operate within Venezuela's borders and have complained that their interests there are at risk (e.g., Phillips 66, Halliburton, Kraft Heinz, to name but a few). A number of U.S.-owned companies recently have ceased operations in Venezuela, just as occurred in Chile under Allende. And just for good measure, Venezuela also experienced a nationwide electrical blackout, the result of sabotage against a hydroelectric plant. The blackout occurred just days following the highly prescient tweets of Marco Rubio that Venezuela was "days away from grave scarcity of food and fuel." I repeat my offer: if you think for one second that the C.I.A.'s antics were curtailed even slightly by the revelations by the Church Committee, you're a sure winner at my Monte game.

⁵ I've opted not to include any of these statements for two reasons: first, they are heinous and violent, and should not be repeated anywhere, even in minor publications; second, it is for brevity's sake — you, reader, can do this legwork should you feel the need to subject yourself to such hateful gobshite. Check their twitter feeds for starters. If you really wanna have some fun, take a look at what purported "socialists" like Bernie Sanders, Alexandra Octavia-Cortez or Ilhan Omar has to say about the democratically-elected Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro. Hint, it ain't exactly in line with any sort of socialism with which I'm familiar.

The NYT as representative of capitalist media

The *New York Times* is one of today's leading voices among capitalist news media. It certainly is no exception to the rule outlined by Gramsci in the epigraph. This paper — just like *The Washington Post*⁶, *The Economist*, *LA Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, et al. — is well-known for always having represented the views of and providing arguments in favor of wealthy interests. Their "news" doesn't suffer because of this — it is their *raison d'être*.

The editorial board of the *NYT* has not opposed a single war waged by the U.S. in more than 34 years^{7,8}. Conveniently and cowardly they wait until after an invasion takes place to voice their opposition, and then only vaguely. Usually this dissension comes in the form of deeming such deadly acts mere errors in judgement or wasteful spending. Other bourgeois papers differ only insofar as they more staunchly support U.S.-waged wars and for longer.

The *NYT*'s expansive news section is no different. Remember Judith Miller and her false claims of WMDs prior to the second U.S. destruction of Iraq? How about the paper's treatment of Gary Webb and his vindicated reporting of the C.I.A.-assisted cocaine trafficking into black neighborhoods throughout the U.S.? Or what of the voluminous body of research that demonstrates ideological bias present within this supposedly august newspaper? These aren't journalistic "missteps" and they certainly aren't specific to the *NYT*. Thus, I feel justified in collecting data solely from this source and extending conclusions to capitalist media in general.

Still, given all of this, why should I choose to focus on the *NYT*? Isn't this rather low-hanging fruit? Well, yes, it is. Truth be told, I'm much more interested in demonstrating the ways in which journalism that is done in the

⁶ This particularly egregious rag is now owned by Jeff Bezos, founder/CEO of Amazon, which has lucrative contracts with the C.I.A. This certainly provides an alternate meaning to their new slogan "Democracy dies in the dark."

⁷ <https://fair.org/home/nyt-laments-forever-wars-its-editorials-helped-create/>

⁸ Don't confuse editorials, written by paid staff and representative of the paper's views, with op-eds. The latter, short for "opposite editorial," are opinion pieces written by guest authors.

name of the "left" (e.g., *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, *Democracy Now!*) performs largely the same ideological legwork that the heavy hitters like the *NYT* do. However, data-wise, it was a choice made for expediency's sake. The Gray Lady's historical archives are more easily accessed than some of the other papers listed above. So, I am able to do more of a one-to-one comparison here than if I were to collect from multiple papers.

Theory, methods and data collection

I'm doing a sort of lowbrow comparative corpus research design to inform a larger critical discourse analysis. Here's how:

1. Build corpus #1 (Chile).
 - a. Retype every word of corpus #1.
 - b. Pay attention to interesting things while typing. Hell, even stop and take notes.
 - c. Identify themes bases on interesting things.
2. Build corpus #2 (Venezuela).
 - a. Copy and paste headlines for every article.
 - b. Separately copy and paste body of articles.
 - c. Pay attention to interesting things in headlines while copying and pasting. Take notes on possible areas of thematic overlap.
3. Compare contents of each corpora using AntConc.
 - a. Run concordance lines based on search terms informed by steps 1c and 2c.
4. Do CDA on results.
 - a. Rinse, adjust search terms and repeat as necessary.

See a whole host of big and small names in the field for support in the theory department. (When's the last time you got a full-blown theoretical/methodological framework in a rant? Today won't be an exception.)

The two corpora built for this study consist of articles published in the *New York Times*. The first corpus is comprised of 106 articles that were written about Chile and dated between January 1970 and December 1973; the second corpus contains 81 articles on Venezuela published in 2018 through January

2019. The title of each article and any subheadings contained within it are included in the data; however, captions for any accompanying photographs are excluded.

For both sets of data, only those articles that are available on Academic OneFile were included in the study. A small percentage of articles in either corpora are attributed to news agencies such as *Reuters*, the *Associated Press* and *United Press International*: Chile = 12% and Venezuela = 4%. Because these news items were reprinted in the *NYT* and they represent official journalistic discourse, I decided to include them in the collected data for analysis. The inclusion of these articles also bolsters my contention that this data is representative of the wider capitalist media.

I began with a search on PSU's library system using two keywords – "Chile" and "crisis." Obviously, dates of publication were limited given the historical nature of the data being sought, from 01-01-1970 through 12-31-1973. I chose this time frame to allow for articles that might have been published just prior to Dr. Allende's election in October 1970 and those published just following the military coup on September 11, 1973. I then applied filters to further narrow the results by item type (newspaper article) and outlet (the *New York Times*). The search yielded 302 items.

I then manually eliminated articles for several reasons. If an article was not directly focused on Chile it was disqualified. Seventy-seven of the initial 302 articles were nixed due to its main focus being irrelevant to the present study. Many of these articles were easy enough to spot with headlines such as "Few Mananas in Brazil" and "U.S. Aid Prevents Vietnam Fuel Crisis." However, some of the excluded articles required a full reading to determine ineligibility. Also excluded were 11 guest opinion pieces and letters to the editor. I chose not to include these articles because I wanted only articles written by professional journalists, i.e. representative of professional journalistic discourse. Related to this point, editorials that were authored by *NYT* editorial staff were included in the data because they are representative of journalistic discourse.

Present in the search results was quite a large percentage of a type of item called "News Summary and Index." These were very short news briefs, usually a sentence or two, on various and unrelated (to one another) happenings in the world. Thus, a further 100 items from the initial search results were excluded from the data. Finally, a handful of other articles were excluded if the full text was not available (6); if the article was about Chile but it wasn't focused on the political/economic situation (5); if it was a display ad (3); if it was a duplicate item (2); or if the scan was unreadable (1).

The collection method for the corpus of Venezuela data followed these steps nearly identically. The same initial search by keywords of country name and "crisis" was run again with a change in the date range. The search was limited to articles published between 01-01-2018 and 03-24-2019 because I thought that this would include an adequate if not comparable amount of data for inclusion and analysis. The opening date is admittedly arbitrary, while the closing date was chosen to include the most recently published articles given that data collection for this corpus began on 03-26-2019. The same filters were again applied to the initial search results, which narrowed the number of articles to 199. Of this 199 more than half of these articles were disqualified from inclusion for similar reasons as with the other corpus, leaving me with 81 articles for comparative analysis.

Amazingly, it happened that my collection criteria, even with the lopsided date restrictions, produced data sets that are pretty damn close in length. The Chilean corpus is 89,999 words compared to Venezuela's 88,817 words. These are quite small in the big data world of corpus linguistics. I think they suit the present study just fine.

Because the data collected on Chile came in the form of scanned copies of dated newspapers, I needed to manually retype each and every article to allow for searches within the corpus. This was a time-consuming but fruitful exercise. It allowed me to become rather familiar with all of the text that makes up this corpus. During this step, I took extensive notes about items that struck me in the data. For example, I made notes about how Dr. Allende was described: Marxist, socialist, drinker, womanizer. I paid attention to

places where an individual text contradicted itself. For example, one article claimed in its opening paragraph that Dr. Allende's Socialist party appointed its own candidate to a position in order to gain further control, but the very next paragraph disclosed that the candidate was independent of any party. I also made note of where contradictions arose between or among other articles. Another point of initial interest were what stood out to me as strange modifiers, often in the form of past participles: "purported documents" and "bungled kidnapping" are two examples.

Lastly, and I think most importantly, especially for the task at hand, I paid special attention to recurring and overarching themes within the data. Two of these themes will form the basis for the present work: (1) besmirching the elected President; and (2) communist infiltration and influence from outside on the internal situations, good ol' fashioned red-baiting during and "after" the Cold War.

Results

I used AntConc to check up on interesting items that I took notes on during all that typing. I executed basic concordance searches on various terms. Search terms are represented at the i in the outline. Either collocates or examples of the search term are provided below i at the fourth level. Here's what I found.

1. Presidential smears

a. Chilean president was *gasp* a Marxist!

- i. Allende, a = 16 tokens
- ii. Allende, a Marxist* = 6 tokens
- iii. Allende, a Socialist = 2 tokens
- iv. Allende, a 62-year-old Socialist = 4 tokens
- v. Allende, a 62-year-old physician and Socialist = 1 token
- vi. Allende, a skilled political acrobat = 1 token

b. Chilean President was no president but a despot ruling a regime.

- i. regime = 40 tokens
 - 1. Allende regime = 10 tokens

2. Marxist regime = 3 tokens
3. socialist regime = 3 tokens
4. anti-U.S. regime = 1 token
5. hostile regime = 1 token

ii. authoritarian = 4 tokens

1. "There has been increased pressure on Dr. Allende from the far left to use **authoritarian** measures against anti-Marxist opposition."
2. "...to keep in check **authoritarian** tendencies of the Socialist and Communist parties in the coalition that won the plurality in the national election..."
3. "Many on the right see Chile on the road to **authoritarian** revolutionary socialism, Cuban-style..."

iii. totalitarian = 2 tokens

1. "...to achieve their objective of implanting a **totalitarian** socialism that the conscience of the nation rejects." (Note: this is part of a direct quote from an opposition Senator.)
2. "There is slight doubt that a strongly anti-U.S. regime is about to take over in Chile and it could well be tempted to employ **totalitarian** methods to achieve its aims."

2. Different presidential smears!

- a. Maduro is beset by conflict or struggle, perhaps on the back foot under attack, also he doesn't belong at the head of the state.

i. embattled = 14 tokens

1. embattled president = 8 tokens
2. embattled government = 3 tokens
3. embattled leader = 2 tokens
4. embattled Maduro = 1 token

ii. usurper = 1 token

1. "Whenever there is the presence of the international community the government of the **usurper** Maduro reacts with this type of activity." (Note: this is a direct quote from a member of Venezuela's parliament.)

iii. illegitimate = 2 tokens

1. "Palladino said in a statement that also condemned Russian military support for the '**illegitimate** regime of Nicolás Maduro'." (See next section for a note on this token.)

b. Venezuelan president also running that regime game

i. regime = 11 tokens

1. Maduro* regime = 5 tokens
2. his regime = 2 tokens
3. a/the regime = 3 tokens
4. illegitimate regime = 1 token (Note: this is likely part of a direct quote from a statement made by U.S. state department spokesman Robert Palladino, but it's unclear from the context what is and isn't directly attributable to him.)

3. External communist influence on Chile, a geographic form of red-baiting

- a. How hard can the NYT McCarthy this Allende guy? (Seriously, they and all the other capitalist media fucking hate anything to the left of Hitler.)

i. Cuba = 33 tokens

1. "The image of this country as ruthless, pervasive practitioner of net-imperialism simply won't wash. If Washington had indeed turned the Monroe Doctrine into the Brezhnev variety there would be no Castro regime in **Cuba** and a Marxist Government would never have come to power in

Chile..." (Note: This example is so far over the top I cease laughing-because-I-have-to-laugh and my blood begins to boil. This is taken from an editorial that rails against accusations made by Allende of U.S. imperialism. The editorial is odd by itself in that it has a named author – "Graham Hovey is a member of the editorial board of The Times" can be found below the piece. It isn't simply attributed to the editorial staff at the NYT. I wonder how personally ol' Graham took those accusations that he felt he needed to pen this screed in defense of the always-oh-so-innocent U.S. It would be worth the reader's time to now pause to read Carl Bernstein's Rolling Stone article from 1977 titled "The CIA and the Media." How much you wanna bet Mr. Hovey was more than passively useful to the C.I.A. through his work as a journalist? My money's on paid stooge.

ii. Castro = 44 tokens

1. I don't think I need to say much more here. The U.S. ruling class has always hated losing their "interests" in sugar plantations and casinos after Castro helped to lead a successful revolution. The number of tokens here is what you should note.

iii. soviet = 17 tokens

1. The medley of references to the Soviet military make listing collocates in the same fashion as above ridiculous here. Here are a few, each one token: arms, occupation, tanks and MIG jets, submarine base, striking power, military installation.

iv. China = 4 tokens

1. I get a special kick out of the collocate "Communist China," which I believe has since fallen out of favor sometime after the close of the first Cold War, pulling in three out of four tokens.

4. Still have that communist influence despite the Soviet Union no longer existing. An updated Cold War.

- a. Yep, the U.S. ruling class still finds utility in geographic redbaiting, actual history be damned (someone please tell the Democrats – as in their base – that Putin is not Lenin).

i. Russia* = 37 tokens

1. The medley here is even more diverse than four decades ago! In just the first 10 tokens in the corpus we have these collocates: air force, defence official, military (x2), soldiers, [Russia]n-flagged cargo plane. You get the idea.

ii. China = 4 tokens

1. "...said Maduro, who retains the support of **China**, Russia and Turkey."
2. "Russia and **China** are the main allies of Venezuela. Both have lent billions of dollars to the oil-rich South American country, propping up Maduro's anti-US government."
3. "...forming a parallel government backed by the US and 50 other democracies, while a coalition led by Russia, **China**, Turkey and Cuba supports Maduro."
4. "...the opposition leader Juan Guaidó – who most western governments now recognize as Venezuela's legitimate interim leader – hit out at Maduro, who retains the support of **China** and Russia." Note: These last two examples are special. In (c), pay attention to

the lopsided nature of this comparison. The U.S. plus "50 other democracies" support the so-called parallel government. Meanwhile, a coalition led by official enemy states supports Maduro. Boy, that word "coalition" sure seems purposefully vague to me. Could it be that the vast majority of the nations that make up the entire fucking world support the sovereignty of Venezuela? Yes, yes it could mean that. In (d), we have another lopsided comparison, this time with "most western governments." How many western governments are there now? Still a minority I see. Oh ho ho, and would you look at that? Don't you all look like current or former imperial powers still collecting residuals from what we use to call your colonies. Most still are, by the way – see Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of Imperialism by Kwame Nkrumah.

Oh man, I have like three more sections to get through, but I'm really out of time and holy shit should I have put this information into a more digestible, probably some sort of visual format. For that, dear reader, I truly apologize. I'll see what I can gloss over in the next section and hope that you trust me that the data bears it out.

Discussion

There are several salient parallels between the *NYT*'s historical reporting on Chile and its present-day coverage of Venezuela. The democratically elected presidents of each nation get the (what's the opposite of royal?) treatment. Allende, the *NYT* absolutely must have you know, is one of those dirty commies. It is enough for them to simply label him a Marxist or socialist and forego ever having to define what they actually mean by those terms. However, they know more about Marxism than most of their readership thinks they do. They just don't want to give away their visceral hatred of

anything that speaks to – and actually works toward – eliminating poverty in the world. The *NYT* needs poverty in order for it to exist. Think for a few minutes about this one: the source of wealth is poverty. In order for there to be someone (or a class of someones) to have more, there must be a class of others who go without. The *NYT* is both served by the existence of this class and does its part to continue this class' continued existence with its misrepresentations of Marxism and Marxism's proponents.

Maduro gets a little bit of different anti-royal treatment, though I think the reasons for this are quite logical. Instead of being a Marxist, which he is, Maduro is quite often presented as weakened through the modifier of embattled. This word means to be beset by conflict or struggle. Even though I form a picture of the meaning of embattled when I read it, I still had to look it up just to feel sure. And lo and behold, what are the most common dictionary examples provided for it? You guessed it, heads of state facing strong opposition. What's odd, though, is this opposition is rarely if ever measured in terms of popular, let alone majority support. He also enjoys having the legitimacy of his elected office challenged in bourgeois media, which is something that Allende didn't endure. I found it refreshing, strange even, the number of instances in which Allende's presidency was described as freely or democratically elected. Given that \$3 million spent trying to keep him out of office, sometimes you just gotta admit defeat to maintain credibility.

The red-baiting that began before WWII and hasn't ever stopped seems pretty straightforward to me. The only thing that's changed is now you don't need to be communist, just anti-imperialist in order to be smeared as a red. We see this with Venezuela being connected not just with Cuba and China, but also Russia despite the dismantling of the actually socialist U.S.S.R. being nearly three decades ago. Furthermore, Turkey (in this data), Iran and Hezbollah (in other articles I've read outside the present corpus) are listed as supporters alongside China and Cuba. Their support is meant to be viewed in a negative light, given the company they keep in these lists. (I would say "accused" as opposed to "listed," but that downplays the positive support they've provided even if it may only come in the form of public recognition

of the sovereignty of the Venezuelan state with Maduro as the elected president.

And now for the hits I couldn't get to above. (Boy howdy, does analyzing data take waaaaaaaayyyyy more time than some of you or I think it does.) Something that really stuck out when I was typing up the Chile corpus was how often their military and its officers were portrayed as being politically neutral. I thought that this might carry over to the Venezuela corpus in some way, but I was wrong. Then I thought that the opposite would be true. That is, the Venezuelan military would be portrayed as fiercely loyal to Maduro (or Chavez, or the Bolivarian Revolution). I found only one token in my corpus that spoke to the loyalty of the military to their political purpose. Anyway, back to Chile, stating over and over ad nauseam how a military is politically neutral is ridiculous on its face. You can say that the U.S. military and its brass are apolitical all you want, but it won't make it true. The same goes for the Chilean military at any time following Spanish colonization, and you could have said it about the Spanish military before that enforced colonialism. I have a much longer section on this, but I'll spare you here.

One final theme present in the Chile data in a big way was blaming the ongoing crises on Allende, Marxism, Socialism, Communism, "the left" — anywhere but where blame truly lied. The causes were of course many and widely varied, but I would argue that a good deal of them started and ended with "U.S. interests." I was unable to figure out how exactly to search the Venezuela corpus for this theme. Regardless, I'm willing to bet it's there and/or elsewhere in spades. Either way, to repeat Gramsci again, their interests are not our interests. We do not benefit when Polar Foods or Heinz Kraft makes a profit anywhere in the world, and especially not when hoarding supplies that are vital to keeping necessary items available to the people. Both of these companies operating in Venezuela in the present crises have seen these accusations leveled at them by their employees.

Conclusion

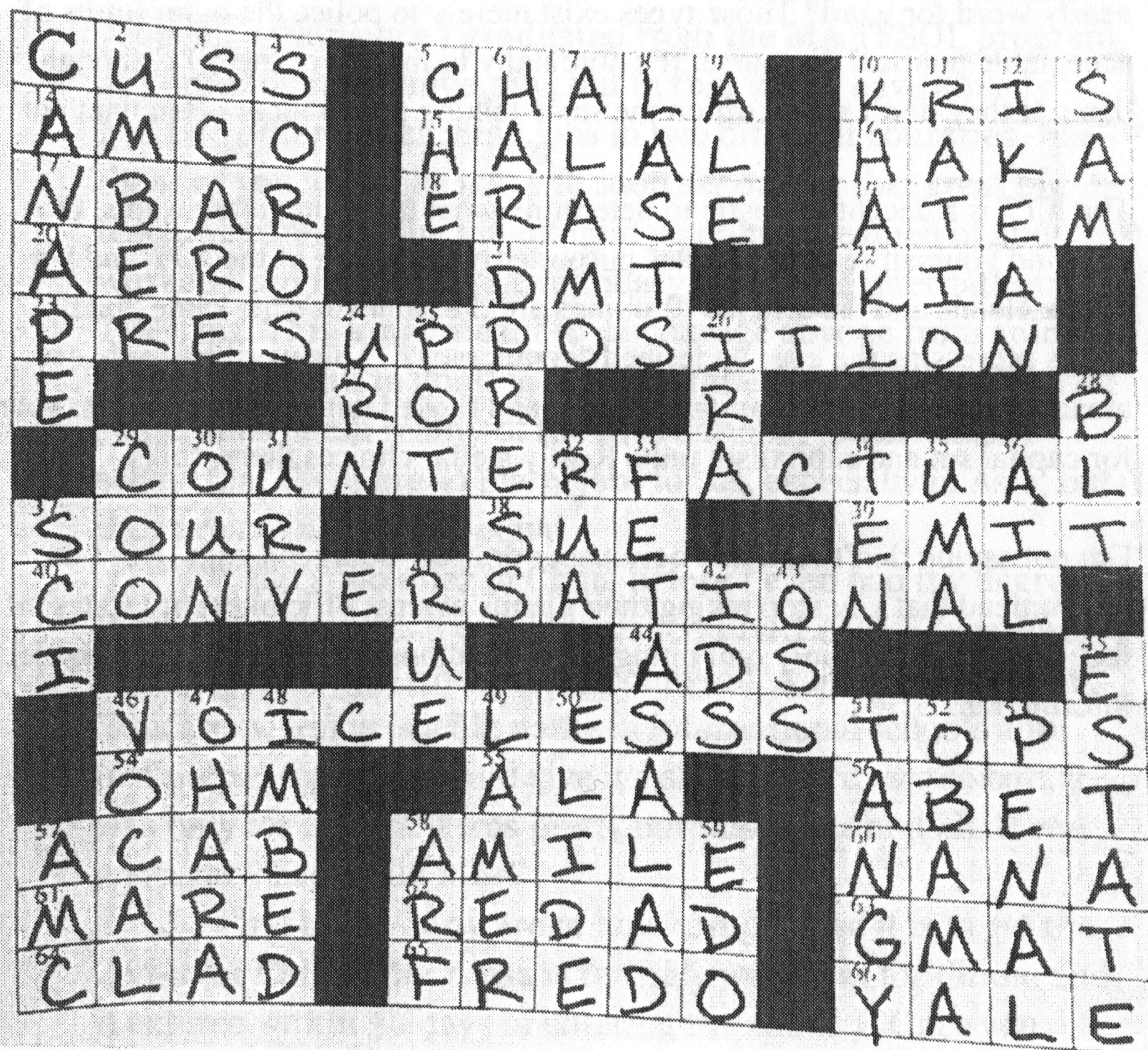
What does it take to get folks to distrust in particular the *NYT* (and its brethren) when it comes to news that focuses on enemies of the U.S. ruling class? By this I mean those instances of "Maduro must go" or "Assad is a

brutal dictator" or "China has concentration camps for Muslims." Those first two presidents have vast popular support. You just won't hear about it in capitalist media, whether it's the *NYT* or the *Daily Show*. The China stories I mention here all get sourced back to Radio Free Asia, that wonderfully pro-democratic media organization run by the C.I.A. Go look up my claims for yourself, I implore you. Lastly, what does it take to recognize that those Democrat favesies as of late (AOC, Bernie, Omar) spout this same rhetoric nearly word for word? Those types exist merely to police the outer limits of acceptable political discourse. It's nominally to the left of the *NYT*, though damn if they don't sound off on the same talking points more often than not.

The *NYT* is a decent heuristic to determine what the ruling class wants. Do you find yourself reading articles purportedly to the left of the *NYT* and yet all the claims and the articles' framings are the same? It's the same "bad" actors repressing the ever undefined "democracy?" This word has only ever meant one thing for the capitalist media and those interests it represents: vote for capitalism and capitalism only. Really stellar choices there, folks.

I'm not saying don't read this newspaper or other bourgeois rags. But I do recommend that you stop taking their claims against official enemy states⁹ at face value, and certainly quit citing them as authoritative sources of reliable information.

⁹ Having trouble figuring out what an *official enemy state* is while reading the news? Here's one easy trick to help you! If you see the government of a sovereign nation referred to as a regime, chances are you've found one! Often you'll see the token *regime* modified with either the current head of state or a political adjective, as in "the Assad *regime*" or "communist *regime*." Still having issues? Another way to check on this is to see which nations and/or individual citizens against whom the U.S. has leveled economic sanctions, or you know, which states the U.S. is currently bombing.



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